

WITH  
EVERYTHING  
SHE DOES,  
MY HEART  
GROWS  
FONDER.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
I DECIDED  
TO GIVE  
UP ON  
HER,

THE MORE  
I KNOW  
ABOUT HER,  
THE MORE I  
KNOW THAT  
SHE'S A  
TERRIBLE  
PERSON.

...AND

AFTER  
ALL THIS,  
I MUST  
REALLY  
BE A  
MASO-  
CHIST  
TO  
STILL  
LOVE  
HER.

...I  
THINK...

BUT...

...I'M  
A FOOL.

...I  
KNOW  
THIS  
NOW,  
AFTER  
FIGURING  
IT OUT  
MYSELF.

...AND  
THAT'S  
ALL.

FROM  
SOLARIS  
ENTER-  
TAINMENT,  
13TH  
DIVISION  
OF SALES,

.....

...THAT'S  
WHAT I'VE  
ALWAYS  
THOUGHT,  
BUT...

..I want  
to go  
home!!

INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING  
GRADUATE OF  
200X.

ISHI-  
WATARI  
TAKASHI!

THANK  
GOD...

I MIGHT NOT  
BE A MASO-  
CHIST AFTER  
ALL!!

from  
Escape ☆ Reality

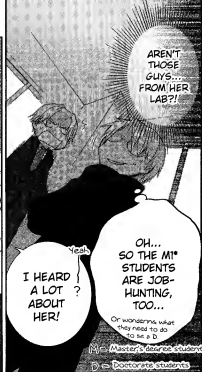
[CHAPTER 8]

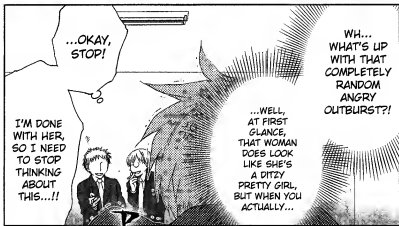
A LIE  
WITHOUT  
ANY LIES

Chapitre 8 : Un message franc











"...I  
DON'T  
KNOW!"

IF...

IF YOU  
STILL  
NEED  
ME FOR  
SOME-  
THING,

...EVEN IF IT'S  
SOMETHING  
SMALL...  
IF YOU DON'T  
OUTRIGHT  
TELL ME THEN  
I WON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO...



ugh

BUT THERE  
ARE ALSO  
TIMES WHEN  
SHE ACTS LIKE  
A CHILD WHO  
DOESN'T KNOW  
ANYTHING...

SHE'S  
TWO  
YEARS  
OLDER  
THAN  
ME,  
TOO...

OH...  
AND NOW  
THAT I  
THINK  
ABOUT IT,

well, I have  
thought about  
it before, but

..THERE  
ARE TIMES  
WHEN SHE  
ACTS  
REALLY  
MATURE,

...AND  
THAT'S WHY  
I REALLY  
CAN'T KEEP  
MYSELF AWAY  
FROM HER.

eh?



Public  
image







...HUH?  
UM...

OH,  
THAT?

YOU CAN  
KEEP IT.  
I JUST  
BOUGHT IT  
'CAUSE I  
WANTED TO  
TRY IT.

....!!!



...ALRIGHT,  
SAITOU.

MAYBE I'LL  
SEE YOU  
LATER.



ISHIWATARI-  
SAN, IT'S  
ABOUT  
TIME...

Oh  
there  
you  
are.

OH,  
YES, I'M  
COMING.



HONESTLY,  
I DIDN'T  
REALLY  
WANT TO  
GO INTO  
GAME  
DESIGN,

HE'S AN...  
ALUMNI  
FROM OUR  
CLUB.

BUT AFTER  
HEARING  
HIM TALK,  
I'M KIND OF  
INTERESTED.

The competition  
in the game company  
world is really fierce!

...AHH.



THAT GUY'S  
PRETTY  
AMAZING,  
HUH.

...I WASN'T  
REALLY  
ASKING  
ABOUT  
THAT...

I'D BE  
LYING.

IF I SAID  
THAT I  
NEVER  
THOUGHT  
THAT WAY  
ONCE

ha  
ha

.....  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

AND I  
KNOW  
THAT IT  
HURTS  
HER.

I KNOW  
THAT I'VE  
BEEN CON-  
FRONTING  
HER TOO  
FORCE-  
FULLY.

AS MUCH  
AS I HATE  
TO ADMIT IT,  
I KNOW.

WHEN I  
IMAGINE  
HOW I  
WAS  
BACK  
THEN

...BUT  
WHEN I  
REMEM-  
BER...

Hey,  
everyone,  
leave it  
all to  
me!

\* The limit of Hais' imagination  
(and it's completely  
wrong, too.)

COOL!!

...THERE'S  
SOME-  
...WRONG, THING  
HUH...

H  
M  
G  
H...



.....  
HUH?

THAT'S  
WHY  
I...

AND IT'S  
FROM A  
VENDING  
MACHINE,  
TOO...

...COLD  
COFFEE IS  
GROSS,  
JUST AS I  
THOUGHT.

フ  
コ  
ン

Barista's Trash

...I'M  
COMING.

EVEN  
IF THEY  
ARE

I FULLY  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT  
THINGS  
WON'T  
WORK  
OUT

...AS  
THEY  
ARE  
NOW.



WHEN I  
LOOKED THIS  
MORNING,  
MAJIMA-SAN  
HAD UPLOADED  
THE NEW  
VERSION.

...HM?

YEAH,  
YEAH,  
RIGHT.



...YEAH.

...OKAY.



GOT IT,  
TALK TO  
YOU  
LATER.

...SORRY  
ABOUT THAT,  
SAITOU.



WHEN I GET  
BACK TO THE  
OFFICE, I'LL  
TAKE A LOOK  
AT IT, TOO...  
BEFORE IT  
GETS PUT  
OUT.

OZU-KUN IS  
FREAKING OUT  
AND CHECKING  
IT LIKE CRAZY.



...NO,

YOU JUST  
BUMPED MY  
NOSE...

OH, SORRY,  
I WASN'T  
LOOKING, AND  
NOW YOU'VE  
GOTTEN  
SHORTER...

175cm



...OH, ARE  
YOU WONDERING  
ABOUT HOW I  
SAID "SEE YOU  
LATER" EARLIER  
TODAY?

If they put an  
action through  
the z-axis, the  
y-axis moves  
instead.  
What a bug.

...OH,  
THAT'S  
GOOD,  
THEN.

SEE  
YOU.

...OKAY?

...I

THEN  
WE'LL  
TALK  
HERE.

SORRY,  
BUT SOME-  
THING JUST  
CAME UP  
AT WORK.

SO I  
DON'T  
REALLY  
HAVE TIME  
TO DO A  
ONE-ON-  
ONE WITH  
YOU...

...HEY.

ISHI-  
WATARI-  
SAN!

WHAT  
IS IT

FOR THE  
COFFEE  
EARLIER.

UM...  
I WANTED  
TO THANK  
YOU.

THAT YOU  
LIKE ABOUT  
EBISAWA-  
SAN...?

STILL GO  
AND DO  
REALLY  
STUPID  
THINGS

...OH,  
WELL.

YOU'RE  
WELCOME?

AND...  
ALSO,

I WILL  
UNFOR-  
TUNA-  
TELY

...OKAY.

A little  
embarrassed  
himself  
↓

WELL, I  
DON'T HAVE  
A LOT OF  
TIME, SO  
I'LL SUM  
IT ALL UP  
IN A WORD.

Well, I...  
I JUST  
WANT TO  
KNOW.

WHY ARE YOU  
ASKING ME THIS  
EMBARRASSING  
QUESTION IN  
FRONT OF  
ALL THESE  
PEOPLE?

HUH?

Good  
work  
today!

Yes,  
please  
do!

Oh, the  
meeting is over.  
Feel free to  
come to dinner  
with us!

Thank you  
I'll be taking  
my leave now







...BUT HER PERSONALITY COMES OUT IN HER APPEARANCE, TO AN EXTENT.

...YOU KNOW,

I FELL IN LOVE WITH THAT STUBBORN-LOOKING FACE OF HERS.



WAIT-WHA?!

AH-

Calm down!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT.



SHE WAS AT THE FIRST CLUB MEETING OF THE YEAR,

Yeah,

BUT MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF HER WAS PRETTY TERRIFYING.

...HUH?

HER FACE ...?



MY NAME IS ISHIWATARI... I'M AN ALUMNI...

HELLO.

↑  
At the time  
23 years old

I COULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED THERE.

# PILE OF DEAD

and the  
last survivor  
announced them

HON-  
ESTLY

IT WAS  
A TOTAL  
TURN-  
OFF.

I JUST  
JOINED  
THIS YEAR!  
MY NAME'S  
EBISAWA  
YUKARI!!

NICE TO  
MEET  
YOU!

.....  
!!!  
.....

O...  
OHH...

...AND?

I saw firsthand the  
terrible power of that  
drink, so every since the  
end of that first party,  
I haven't been passing  
in all that much.

THAT WAS  
THE FIRST TIME  
I'D SEEN THOSE  
LIVELY GUYS  
STRUCK DEAD  
BY IT...

YOU KNOW  
THAT DRINK,  
RIGHT?  
THAT  
TERRIFYING  
DRINK SHE  
MAKES...  
"LETHAL  
WEAPON"...

HUH?  
WELL,  
THEN...

light-  
weights



SHE SEEMED INTERESTING, SO I ASKED HER OUT TO DINNER.

THANKS A BUNCH!

THIS IS GREAT!



DON'T HURT YOURSELF.

I'M GONNA WORK REALLY HARD THIS YEAR!

OKAY!

haha

HERE, GO AHEAD AND ORDER SOMETHING YOU LIKE.



UP UNTIL LAST YEAR, I WAS IN CHARGE OF MAKING SURE EVERYONE WAS OKAY AT THE END OF OUR DRINKING PARTIES, SO...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME.



YOU HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO HAVE A REAL MEAL LATELY, RIGHT?

OH, NO, I...

...HUH?

I'LL TREAT YOU.



...TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU'LL SURVIVE IF YOU SPLIT YOUR DRINK INTO THIRDS. RIGHT?

WHEN I SAW YOU THERE, I WAS SO ENTHRALLED!

...YEAH, YEAH!

haha





...IT'S  
HARD TO  
DO THAT  
ALL THE  
TIME,  
ISN'T IT?

BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
OVERTHINKING  
THINGS,

EVERYONE  
HAD A LOT  
OF FUN.



THIS IS  
THE ONLY  
FOOD I'VE  
EATEN  
TODAY.

HUH?!

...BY  
THE  
WAY,

Oh,  
here it is

Here you  
are, sir

NO,  
I WASN'T  
REALLY...

...OH,



I WENT  
TO THE  
COMPANY'S  
"WELCOME  
PARTY"  
FROM A  
SENPAI.

INSTEAD  
OF EATING  
LUNCH  
TODAY,

I GOT TO  
SAY "I'VE  
JUST BEEN  
EMPLOYED  
HERE" A  
LOT.

OH-  
HUH?!

OH  
HERE,  
SOY  
SAUCE.



OH  
...HERE'S  
A HINT.

AFTER THAT,  
WE HAD TWO  
OR THREE  
MORE DATES.

THEN, I  
ASKED HER  
IF SHE WOULD  
GO OUT WITH  
ME.

...THAT NIGHT,  
SHE STAYED  
OVER AT MY  
PLACE.

"WHEN  
I'M  
WITH  
THIS  
PERSON,  
I FEEL  
VERY  
RELAX-  
ED."

...I GUESS  
THAT/IS  
HARD!

...SOME-  
HOW

WE WERE  
BOTH  
THINKING  
THE SAME  
THING.

OHH...



...WHY?



THE FACADE  
SHE PUTS  
ON IS WAY  
DIFFERENT  
THAN MINE,  
BUT THE ES-  
SENTIALS ARE  
VERY MUCH  
THE SAME.

...IT WAS  
REALLY  
GREAT.

THE  
TWO OF  
US.



WHY DO  
I FEEL SO  
...UNEASY?

UM...



...I DON'T  
THINK  
THERE'S  
ANY WAY  
SOMEONE  
COULD  
UNDER-  
STAND  
US.

...HUH?

I SAW  
EBISAWA-  
SAN TALKING  
ON HER CELL  
PHONE WITH  
YOU...  
SHE SEEMED  
REALLY  
HAPPY.

...BACK  
WHEN I  
FIRST CAME  
TO SCHOOL  
HERE,



WHY  
WAS  
THAT?

WHEN I  
QUICKLY  
PICKED UP  
THAT THEY  
HAD SEP-  
ARATED.

I FELT  
THAT  
DAY

...THE  
UNEAS-  
INESS



RIGHT NOW,  
YOU KNOW  
WE'RE ON  
A BREAK,  
RIGHT?

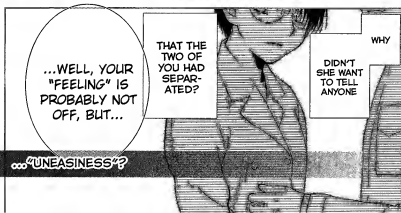
...YOU  
ASK A  
LOT OF  
WEIRD  
THINGS,  
HUH?



...AND

MY  
HEAD...

...SHIT.



...WELL, YOUR  
"FEELING" IS  
PROBABLY NOT  
OFF, BUT...

THAT THE  
TWO OF  
YOU HAD  
SEPAR-  
ATED?

WHY

DIDN'T  
SHE WANT  
TO TELL  
ANYONE

...“UNEASINESS”?





...EVER  
SINCE  
WE'VE  
MET

WE'VE  
BROKEN  
UP AND  
GOTTEN  
BACK TO-  
GETHER  
MULTIPLE  
TIMES.

DID I ACTUALLY REALIZE IT WAS THAT?



THE LONGEST  
WE'VE BEEN  
SEPARATED  
WAS...  
WHEN  
WAS IT?

I THINK  
IT WAS  
BEFORE  
I GOT MY  
MASTER'S.

IT WAS WHEN  
SHE WAS  
APPLYING FOR  
RESEARCH,  
I THINK.

WE DIDN'T  
TALK TO EACH  
OTHER FOR  
THREE  
MONTHS.

...BUT WE  
ENDED UP  
FIXING  
THINGS.

...NO.



...UNDER-  
STAND  
NOW?

ANYWAYS,  
I'VE REALLY  
GOT TO GET  
BACK TO THE  
OFFICE.

"YEAH,  
I THOUGHT  
SO"



...I  
UNDER-  
STAND.

GOOD,  
THEN,  
SEE  
YOU.



...UM.

JUST...  
ONE MORE  
THING.



...YES?



SHE'S  
USUALLY  
THE ONE  
TO CON-  
TACT ME  
FIRST.

SHE GETS  
LONELY  
REALLY  
EASILY.

BE-  
CAUSE  
RIGHT  
NOW,  
I'M THINK-  
ING

IT'S  
DIFFERENT,  
ISN'T IT?

BUT I  
THINK THE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN US  
IS JUST  
RIGHT.



YES, IT'S  
ESPECIALLY  
DISGUSTING  
WHEN YOU  
LET IT GET  
COLD.

IT'S  
AWFUL.

...I'M  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.



THE...  
COFFEE YOU  
GAVE ME  
EARLIER.

...YEAH,  
IT'S BEEN  
AROUND A  
WHILE, AND  
THE MAKER  
HASN'T  
CHANGED IT  
AT ALL.

I HEARD  
THAT IT TASTES  
LIKE CRAP, BUT  
I BOUGHT IT  
ANYWAYS...



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
IMPLYING?

.....



ABOUT  
EBI-  
SAWA-  
SAN...

AFTER  
HEARING  
WHAT  
THOSE  
GUYS  
HAD TO  
SAY

...DO YOU  
INTEND  
TO JUST  
GO HOME  
WITHOUT  
SEEING  
HER?!



HONESTLY,  
KNOWING HER,  
IT'S NOT ALL  
OUT OF THE  
QUESTION.

I DID  
SAY THAT  
I DIDN'T  
AGREE,  
THOUGH.

THAT IT  
WAS DIFFICULT  
ENOUGH FOR  
HER TO KEEP  
DOING HER  
RESEARCH.

WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU  
DO...



IF

I SAID  
"YEAH"?




AND THAT'S  
SOMETHING  
THAT SHE  
CAN'T RUN  
AWAY FROM.

THE FACT  
THAT PEOPLE  
CAN'T CONTROL  
THEMSELVES.

I THINK THAT  
IT'S NOT ABOUT  
HER BEING A  
WOMAN, JUST  
THAT THEY HAVE  
AN INDIVIDUAL  
PROBLEM WITH  
HER.

BUT THERE  
ARE PEOPLE  
WHO DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK THAT  
WAY.



THEY WANT  
RESULTS  
THAT SUPPORT  
THE HYPOTHESES  
THEY CONSTRUCT,  
AND THEY DON'T  
GET THEM.

JUST  
BEING  
WITH  
THEM  
IS A  
WASTE  
OF TIME.

AND THOSE  
GUYS ARE  
THE ONES WHO  
PRETEND THEY'RE  
TRYING HARD,  
THEN COMPLAIN  
ABOUT GETTING  
BAD RESULTS.



TREAT  
HER...  
BETTER.

...THAT'S  
NOT IT.  
YOU  
SHOULD...



...IT SOUNDS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
JUST TRYING  
TO MAKE AN  
ARGUMENT WITH  
A CONVENIENT  
WORD.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN BY  
"BETTER"?



SO...

...BUT!

SHE'S  
GOT TO BE  
PREPARED  
FOR IT.

THIS IS  
THE CHOICE  
SHE MADE.



YOU'VE  
GOT PLENTY  
OF FREE TIME  
TO DO IT.

AND YOU'RE  
PHYSICALLY  
CLOSER  
TO HER.

...SO  
WHY  
DON'T  
YOU?

IF YOU  
FEEL SO  
STRONGLY  
ABOUT IT,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU DO IT?



I DON'T  
WANT HER  
TO CRY.

I DON'T  
WANT HER  
TO GET  
HURT.

I WANT TO  
HELP HER  
WHEN SHE'S  
IN PAIN.

WHAT  
AM I  
SUPP-  
POSED  
TO SAY  
WHEN  
HE ASKS  
ME THAT?

...I WANT  
HER TO BE  
HAPPY.

BUT...

WELL,

THAT'S  
TOO  
BAD.

AND?

...I  
KIND  
OF

DON'T  
KNOW,  
BUT...

...SHE  
CRIES

A LOT.

...WHY?



THEN YOU  
SHOULD  
BE THE  
ONE TO  
DO IT!



...BUT  
I CAN'T  
HELP  
HER!

IF YOU  
AREN'T  
GOING TO  
LEAVE  
HER,

THAT'S  
WHY



THAT'S  
WHY...

ANYTHING  
ELSE TO  
DO

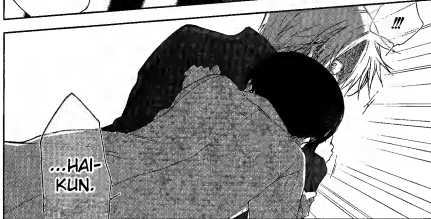
...I  
JUST  
CAN'T  
THINK  
OF



THAT'S  
WHY

....!!!









OH,  
GOOD  
WORK  
TODAY,  
EVERY-  
ONE.

WE'LL BE  
LEAVING,  
THEN.

...THAT'S  
PROBABLY  
WHAT IT  
IS.



...THAT'S  
RIGHT.

HIS BLOOD  
PRESSURE'S  
HIGH, AS  
USUAL, SO  
HE'S TRYING  
TO TAKE IT  
EASY.

...HE'S  
DOING  
GREAT!



...WOW,  
THAT'S AN  
OLD NAME,  
SHIBU-SAN.

LATELY,  
HE HASN'T  
EVEN BEEN  
COMING TO OUR  
DRINKING  
PARTIES.

...HOW  
IS HE?



I WAS

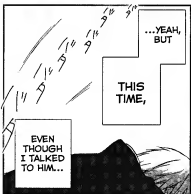
I'M  
SORRY!



PROBABLY  
JUST TOO  
NAIVE.











...HEY,

YOU...

...WHAT  
WERE YOU  
THINKING?



I COULDN'T  
CARE LESS  
WHAT COMP-  
ANY YOU WERE  
GOING FOR,  
THEY ALL CAME  
TODAY TO  
SCOUT YOU!

AND YET,  
YOU HAVE THE  
NERVE TO START  
A FIGHT OUT  
THERE, IN FRONT  
OF ALL OF THEM?!  
YOU KNOW IT'S  
GOING TO HURT  
YOUR CHANCES!

ARE YOU  
SERIOUSLY  
THINKING OF  
THROWING THE  
JOB MARKET  
AWAY LIKE  
THAT?!

...I  
CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU!

...YEAH, THERE IT IS.





NO  
MATTER

HOW HARD  
I TRY TO  
RIP MY  
HEART  
OUT OF  
MY CHEST

.....  
I'M  
SORRY.

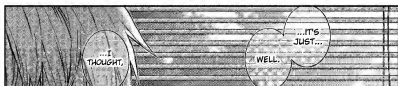


AND SHE  
SAYS THE  
MOST IN-  
SENSITIVE  
THINGS

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
GOT MY  
BACK,  
HUH...

.....  
IT MAKES  
ME SO  
ANGRY.

THAT  
EXPR-  
SSION  
COMES ON  
TO HER  
FACE



I REALLY, REALLY HATE THIS BITCH.

IF I CHASE AFTER HER, SHE RUNS AWAY.

I'M NOT  
GOING OUT  
WITH ISHI-  
WATARI-  
SAN.

I...

AH!

BUT,  
HAI-  
KUN...

\*\*\*\*\*

BUT I  
DON'T WANT  
TO DATE  
YOU...

I WANT  
TO BE  
FRIENDS...

AND I  
DON'T WANT  
TO LEAVE  
YOUR  
SIDE.

...YOU'RE  
IMPORT-  
ANT TO  
ME.

BUT SHE WON'T KEEP HERSELF  
AWAY FROM ME





...BUT

RIGHT NOW,  
YOU GIVE  
ME YOUR  
BODY.

AND YOU  
LET ME DO  
WHATEVER  
I WANT  
TO IT.

○ ○ ○  
"IF I  
JUST  
MAKE  
HER  
HATE  
ME,  
IT'LL  
BE  
OVER?"  
?

...THEN,  
I'LL DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT  
ME TO,  
OKAY?



COULD YOU  
LOCK THE  
DOOR...?

THE  
WOMAN

WHO'D COLLAPSE  
IF SHE COULDN'T  
FIND SOMEONE  
TO HOLD HER  
RIGHT NOW

THIS WAS  
THE WOMAN  
SHE WAS

I  
KNEW



I KNEW.



THE  
WOMAN  
I COULD  
NEVER  
FIGURE  
OUT

THE WOMAN  
WHO WAS SO  
CONFUSED  
RIGHT THEN,  
THE WOMAN  
WHO WAS  
CORNERED  
RIGHT THEN



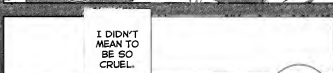
...HAI-  
KUN.



I KNEW



BUT  
IN THE  
END, I  
JUST  
WANTED  
A REA-  
SON  
TO  
HOLD  
HER.



I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
BE SO  
CRUEL.



I DON'T  
USE IT...  
BECAUSE IT  
MIGHT CON-  
TAMINATE  
STUFF IN  
THE LAB...

YOU  
SHOULD  
TAKE  
BETTER  
CARE OF  
YOUR  
SKIN.

YOU  
SHOULD  
USE  
SOME  
HAND  
CREAM.



AFTER  
ALL  
RIGHT  
THEN

....AH!

VERY  
WOMAN-  
LY...

I KNOW  
I'M NOT...

I REALLY WANTED TO TELL HER

...AH..

AH...

"THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL"







...AHH.

...I

...I  
NEVER...

BUT  
REALLY

I NEVER  
WANT

TO SEE  
YOUR FACE  
AGAIN.

WHAT'S  
"TRUE"  
ABOUT  
HER?

WHO  
GIVES  
A FUCK  
ANY-  
MORE.

**A suivre**  
TO BE CONTINUED

# FEMME FATALE CHAPTER 8

PRESENTED BY PUTARI WA PRETTY ANON

THAT'S THE OFFICIAL END OF VOLUME TWO - THERE'S ONE MORE TO GO!  
YOU WON'T BELIEVE HOW EXCITED I WAS TO TRANSLATE THIS CHAPTER.  
THANKS FOR STICKING AROUND, AND WE HOPE YOU'LL READ THE THIRD  
AND FINAL VOLUME AS WE RELEASE IT!

SCANS: ANON BLACK  
TRANSLATION: ANON BLACK  
CLEANING: AESSSSSS  
TYPESETTING: ANON BLACK

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